



### Coordinator's Corner

Did you know that **August and September are the busiest months of hurricane season each year?** Make sure your family is prepared and your disaster kit is well stocked. Here in the Central Shenandoah Valley, we have experienced severe flooding from August-September tropical storms including the hurricane of September 1896, Hurricane Camille in August 1969, Hurricane Fran in September 1996, and Hurricane Isabel in September 2003.

Shenandoah Valley Project Impact would like to thank our local governments for their financial support for this coming year! A special thanks goes to **Augusta County, the Cities of Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, and Waynesboro and the Town of Broadway** for their support of our disaster education program. We are also grateful to **Augusta County, the Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro, and the Town of Broadway** for supporting our CERT program. Without the financial support of our local governments, we would not be able to continue to help the residents of the Central Shenandoah Valley Region prepare for disasters and emergencies.



### CERT Members:

**Watch Your Mailboxes For A Letter Soon Which Will Include This Year's Advanced Training Schedule And Other Important Information!**

## Disaster Resistant Times Shenandoah Valley Project Impact Citizen Corps Council and CERT Member Newsletter August/September 2007

### CERT Course - Fall 2007

**Augusta County Government Center in Verona  
Thursdays, September 27 - November 8  
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**



Shenandoah Valley Project Impact, in partnership with Augusta County, the Cities of Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro, and the Town of Broadway is offering **CERT** training. Classes meet one night a week for seven weeks. You will learn about a different topic each night.

**Week 1:** What Is A Disaster, Disaster Mitigation, and Preparedness

**Week 2:** Fire Safety

**Week 3:** Emergency First Aid I

**Week 4:** Emergency First Aid II

**Week 5:** Terrorism Preparedness and Crime Prevention

**Week 6:** Disaster Psychology

**Week 7:** Disaster Simulation

**All Classes Are Free  
And For The General Public!**

**To register for the CERT course contact:  
Shenandoah Valley Project Impact, C/O Central Shenandoah PDC  
112 MacTanly Place; Staunton, Virginia 24401  
Telephone: 540-885-5174; E-mail: cspdc@cspdc.org**

### NOT JUST A DOG

- by Phyllis Campbell, Citizen Corps Council Member

Man's relationship with dogs, from the faithful shepherd dog guarding the flock, willing to give its life without thought, to the ball of fluff perched on its owner's lap, has long been the topic for story and song. Dogs are wonderful things whether working or simply bringing joy into one's life, but no relationship is quite as special as that between service dogs for the disabled and their owners. It embraces all the pleasures known to owner and pet coupled with a bond of trust which often is absent between humans.

"You treat that dog like a person," the woman sniffed as I paused next to the door in the crowded department store to wipe my guide dog's cold dripping nose with a tissue.

"I suppose I do," I said. "This dog has willingly placed himself between me and a speeding vehicle. I wonder how many people would do that."

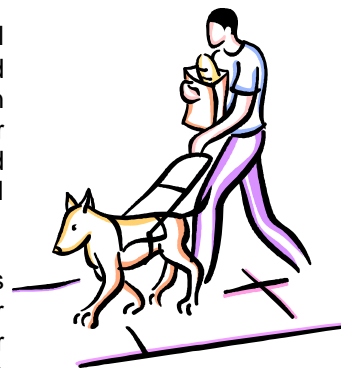
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## This And That:

- The American Veterinary Medical Association has put together a disaster preparedness book for pets. "Saving The Whole Family" can be downloaded at [www.avma.org](http://www.avma.org).
- The United Nations and International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has a new online game and educational tool to show children how to reduce their risk of a disaster. The game is targeted for children age 9-16. The website for the "Stop Disasters Game" is [www.stopdisastersgame.org](http://www.stopdisastersgame.org).
- The Institute of Business and Home Safety has a variety of publications on how to protect your home from floods, wind damage, wildfires, etc. Their website address is [www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org).

(Continued From Page 1) Just for the record here, I'll have to be truthful, and state that he couldn't have cared less that his nose was dripping, but that same woman would have screamed if she'd seen it drip on a dress or coat as we moved among the crowded racks. He did deserve "human" treatment, though, and for the reason I gave her.

All service dogs, dog guides for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf, and assistance dogs for those with other disabilities, are rigorously screened before they enter their training. Although German shepherds are still quite popular as service dogs, especially for the blind, the retriever breeds are widely used. Their gentle temperament makes them especially desirable.



Not all dogs make it to the end of their training. Any dog demonstrating hostile tendencies, nervousness, poor physical health, and many other negative characteristics are removed from the training program. Some may even make it to the final stage, placement with an owner, only to be returned to the kennel in favor of another dog.

Sometimes these dogs may be tried with another person, and work well. Others simply fail, and are placed with an eager person who simply wants a pet.

One of the biggest myths about service dogs is that they physically protect their owners. They protect only in the areas in which they have been trained, guiding, alerting to a sound, or picking up objects, fetching the phone etc. I greatly fear that many of these "protectors" are hopeless cowards, looking to the god (their owner) in their world to take care of them.

"I took you across that busy intersection, lady. Please don't let that fierce kitten get me!" They do their thing, and their owner is expected to do his.

Guide dogs are given their preliminary training in the home of carefully chosen families. They are exposed to other animals and given experience with all kinds of real life situations they may be called on to face in their work. Then they are taken to the guide dog school where they enter the final phase of their education. When the trainers feel they are ready they are carefully matched to the incoming class of blind students, and together, human and dog student, they work together for twenty-six days, going through every conceivable situation.

I'm an organist, so it was essential that we determine that my dog wouldn't start howling at the sound of the organ. He served me well for thirteen years, and never made a sound during the worship service. Well, all right, he did cry once at a funeral, but that's a story for another day.

Other service dogs are rigorously trained, but most don't have the long period of training with their owner as do guide dogs. Often their period of training can be as little as two weeks, but despite this they do their work well. Usually their main training is done in the exact environment in which they will be working instead of the school as is done with dogs for the blind.

Wonderful as these dogs are, all of them, it should be remembered that they aren't super-dogs. Just as it is their job to protect their owners from the pitfalls encountered because of their disability, it is the owner's responsibility to protect them. They need proper nutrition, should not be allowed to run free outside or in a public place. Like children they'll "get away" with anything they're allowed to, so that it is a kindness to exert loving discipline. Let him bark and growl at home, and he just might do it in church or in the middle of a play. Let him run free in a restaurant, and I promise you he'll help himself to somebody's dinner. Give him care and love, and he will serve faithfully, but remember, it's up to the owner to see that he isn't just a dog, but half of a fine working team.

This newsletter is published by:  
Shenandoah Valley Project Impact  
C/O Central Shenandoah PDC  
112 MacTanly Place  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
Phone: 540-885-5174  
E-mail: [cspdc@cspdc.org](mailto:cspdc@cspdc.org)

